

DRAFT

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, February 5, 2015 Diamondback Conference Room, City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland

Attendance

Commissioners Present: John Becker, Steve Cardon, Scott Clausen, Alicia Hosmer, Amanda Matheny, Clark Reed, and Lea Rosenbohm (on telephone)

Commissioners Absent: Steve Sprague

Guests: Mark Charles, Environmental Management
Helen Triolo, Interested Resident and Prospective Commissioner
Erica Shingara, Environmental Management
Ray Obrocki, Inspection Services Division Manager

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:35 am by Chair Reed.

Introduction of Guests

Guests and Commissioners introduced themselves.

Meeting Agenda Review and Revision

No changes were made to the draft agenda.

Approval of the January 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Clausen moved and Commissioner Becker seconded a motion to approve the January 17, 2015 meeting minutes. The motion passed 5-0-1 with Commissioner Cardon abstaining due to an absence.

Prospective Commissioner Interview – Helen Triolo

Ms. Triolo writes a blog (Rockville Living) and is interested in promoting the Commission and its good work. She has web development skills in addition to her writing experience. If appointed, she would like to serve on the energy committee and can help with a stronger social media presence. She has been a resident since 1991 and lives near Welsh Park.

Green Building Ordinance Amendments

Erica Shingara and Ray Obrocki briefed the Commission on the proposed amendments to City Code Chapter 5 (Green Building) that will incorporate the new international recommendations for green building requirements. The amendments are expected to be introduced in April and adopted by July 1, 2015.

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Residential Solar Initiative – Status Report (Reed)

COG recently selected the Community Power Network to serve as a contractor to implement a regional residential solar initiative using DOE grant funds. A contract has not been executed but when it does, the Community Power Network would like to target homes in Rockville for discounted solar installations. The first step is a community meeting that can be co-hosted by the Commission. The preferred date is April 18 to be held at the PEPCO Watershed building off of Gude Drive (holds about 40). Lea will contact PEPCO and confirm the facility is available.

Maryvale Stream Cleanup

The Commission has adopted a portion of Maryvale Stream and has pledged to conduct clean ups twice each year. The next clean up coincides with the regional Potomac River clean up sponsored by Alice Ferguson Foundation scheduled for April 11 from 10:00 to 12:00. Motion was made to that effect by Commissioner Cardon and seconded by Commissioner Matheny. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Science Day and Hometown Holidays Planning

Science Day is Sunday, April 26 from 1-5 pm.

Hometown Holidays: The Commission decided to again participate in *Hometown Holidays* by staffing a booth on Saturday, May 23, 2-15. Similarly, the second day (Sunday) will be offered to the Bike Advisory Committee again. After considering several environmental themed films, Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Clausen seconded to screen the film *Carbonation*. The motion passed 5-1-1; Commissioner Cardon voted *no* and Commissioner Matheny voting to *abstain*. The Commission expressed a preference to screen the film in the Public Library if available.

Commissioner Matheny agreed to contact the festival staff and request a booth near the Regal Theater if possible as well as support to pay for and promote the film in the program.

Environmental Excellence Awards

The Rockville joint Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration is scheduled for April 22, 2015 (45th Annual Earth Day). If the Commission would like to present its awards as part of that celebration, it must take final action as of its April 2, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Cardon suggested Kris Dighe be nominated. Commissioner Hosmer wants to nominate the Rockville Skating Rink. Commissioner Matheny will check with the nature Center to see if it has any volunteers it would like to nominate. *Peerless Rockville* gave a 2014 award to a green home recently built at 214 Harrison Street.

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Committee Assignments

Energy – Clark Reed, Steve Sprague and Helen Triolo

Recycling – Lea Rosenbohm, and Scott Clausen

Sustainability – Lea Rosenbohm, Alicia Hosmer and John Becker

Watersheds – Amanda Matheny, Steve Cardon, and Alicia Hosmer

Recommendation to Fill the Commission Vacancy

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Cardon seconded a motion to recommend Helen Triolo's candidacy to the Mayor to fill the currently vacant Commissioner position. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of a 2015 Commission Chair

After a brief discussion and because several commissioners were not present, Commissioner Cardon moved and Commissioner Becker seconded a motion to table the election of a 2015 Commission Chair. The motion passed 5-0-1.

Announcements

- The mayor and Council will be considering an Earth Hour and Earth Month proclamation on Monday, March 23. Commissioners Becker, Hosmer, Matheny, and Rosenbohm all plan to attend.
- Commissioners Becker and Hosmer intend to attend the Earth Day celebration
- There was a reminder about the need for draft testimony if the community solar legislation gets a hearing in the House or Senate.
- Chair Reed gave a quick report on other legislative Bills that may be filed in the General Assembly.

Adjourn

Commissioner Becker moved and Commissioner Clausen seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (6-0-0) at 9:34

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for **Thursday, April 2, 2015**. This meeting will be held in the Diamondback Conference Room in Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. The public is invited to attend.